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ABSTRACT

Noting that adults caring for young children often find themselves responding to children's misbehavior in ways contradictory to their overall goals of children's autonomy and self-management, this book provides practical child-centered suggestions for responding to young children's disruptive behavior and suggests behavior management techniques that safeguard children's emotional needs and rights. Part 1 of the book examines adults' goals in disciplining children and considers quality guidelines, behavior management theories, and using discipline to teach considerate behavior. Part 2 defines self-esteem and examines ways to foster a healthy self-esteem in children, including listening to children, acknowledging their perspectives, and promoting a constructive self-concept, realistic ideals, and competence. Part 3 concerns children's social needs and deals with encouraging friendships, coaching social skills, and settling disputes. Part 4 recommends ways for dealing democratically with children's inconsiderate behavior, focusing on positive responses to inconsiderate behavior. Part 5 applies the guidelines and general recommendations to common behavioral challenges, including self-management, social difficulties, and developmental concerns. Part 6 addresses family and personal issues with which some children have to cope, such as stress, grief, abuse, disabilities, hyperactivity, and high intellectual ability. Part 7 examines issues affecting the ability of caregiving staff to experience satisfaction in their work and to meet their responsibilities most effectively, including collaborating with parents, meeting staff needs, and forming a center discipline policy. Five appendices include quality guidelines, creative activities, and a list of readings for children and adults. (Contains approximately 350 references.) (KB)

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